



West Grove United Methodist Church

OPEN • GROW • SERVE

The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, Lead Pastor
300 North Guernsey Road
West Grove, PA 19390

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
August 6, 2017

9:30 a.m. Blended Worship

Prelude

OPEN

Welcome and Ministry Opportunities

Pastor Monica

Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row.

First-time guest or member? Let us know you were here!

*Call to Worship

Mike Chalmers

One: God calls us from darkness to the light.

Many: Do not be afraid!

One: God call us to look into the darkness and see the light.

Many: Do not be afraid!

All: Let us follow where God, the light, leads us today!

*Opening Prayer (Unison)

Mike Chalmers

Creator of light, you shine in the darkness of our lives. When we feel overwhelmed, burdened, and paralyzed by the darkness, you remind us of your everlasting promises. When we look for the specifics in a directional system, you remind us of the beauty of faith. May, we who feel like Abram, find hope in your way and depend on promises that cannot fail. In the name of the God who creates something out of nothing, we pray, Amen.

*Opening Song

"Today is the Day"

PraiseWorks Band

*Passing of the Peace

PraiseWorks Band

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

GROW

Moment for All Ages

Karen Hruz

Old Testament Lesson *Genesis 13: 1-2, 5-9, 14-18, 14:14-16, 18-20, 15:1-8, 12-15, 18*

Mike Chalmers

*Gospel Lesson

Luke 12:32-34

Mike Chalmers

Response to the Lessons

Mike Chalmers

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God,

Many: Thanks be to God, Amen.

(Children 4-10 years meet in room #9 for Children's Worship. Parents, please pick up your children immediately following the worship service in room #9.)

Sermon

“Promises in the Dark”

Pastor Monica

SERVE

Moment of Impact

Camp and Retreat Ministries

Pastor Monica

Offering

“Even If”

PraiseWorks Band

***Offertory Response** *“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”* UMH, No. 95
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN.**

***Offertory Prayer (Unison)**

Pastor Jim

**God, who created the stars, bring us into your wonder. Turn our eyes
ever towards your wonders. As we gaze, remind us of your call in our
lives. Let us begin today by responding with these gifts. Let them
bless others to know wonder and point to you, we pray, Amen.**

Invitation

Pastor Jim

Prayer of Confession (adapted from prayer by Ruth C. Duck)

Pastor Jim

**God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Jesus Christ, God of our mothers and our
fathers, you are a God who acts in history. Yet we confess that we are too busy
with our own lives to perceive you at work in our time. We fall into fear and
despair about our troubled world, as if you had no care for us. Forgive our lack
of faith and help us to join you as your labor to bring new life on earth. May we
see your action and depend on the promises you have made to us and your
people across time. in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen
(Moment of Silence)**

Words of Assurance

Pastor Jim

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Monica, Pastor Jim, Pastor Shirley

*All are welcome. Our communion bread is gluten free and nut free so that all may receive
together. Our cup is grape juice, so that all may partake.*

The Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Shirley

Communion Song

“Come to the Table of Grace”

WS, No. 3168

Prayer after Receiving

Pastor Jim

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this Holy Mystery in which you
have given yourself to us. Grant that we might go into the world
equipped for times of darkness to shine your light. In the name of the
light of the world, we pray, Amen.**

***Closing Song**

“Standing on the Promises”

UMH, No. 374

***Benediction**

Pastor Monica

***Postlude**

Please stand as you are able* **Bold Print = Say in unison

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 13: 1-2, 5-9, 14-18, 14:14-16, 18-20, 15:1-8, 12-15, 18

So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.

Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, so that the land could not support both of them living together; for their possessions were so great that they could not live together, and there was strife between the herders of Abram's livestock and the herders of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites lived in the land.

Then Abram said to Lot, 'Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herders and my herders; for we are kindred. Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.'

The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, 'Raise your eyes now, and look from the place where you are, northwards and southwards and eastwards and westwards; for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring for ever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth; so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. Rise up, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.' So Abram moved his tent, and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron; and there he built an altar to the LORD.

When Abram heard that his nephew had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. Abram divided his forces against them by night, Abram and his servants, and routed them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. Then Abram brought back all the goods, and also brought back his nephew Lot with his goods, and the women and the peo-

And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said,

'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!'

And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything. After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' God brought Abram outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then God said to Abram, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?'

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. Then the LORD said to Abram, 'Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; but I will bring judgement on the nation that they serve, and afterwards they shall come out with great possessions. As for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Gospel Lesson: Luke 12: 32-34

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

OPEN ~ GROW ~ SERVE

At West Grove UMC, we love God by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing our faith and serving our community and world in His name.

Welcome to this gathering of God's people worshipping and praising God! May we continue to be moved by the Spirit to live as the body of Christ. If you have come as a guest, we hope that you'll leave as a friend and pray you'll be nourished in faith as you hear God's message for you today. We encourage you to join us again. Please honor us by signing the Friendship pad. Our Welcome Center, located in the lobby, is a place where guests and new attendees can seek information about our church.

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Church Office: 610-869-9334—Our Website: [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org)

***Please remember to mute your cell phone when you enter the sanctuary for worship.***

**TODAY: WORSHIP AT TWIN PINES.** Please join us today at 2:00 pm. Pastor Jim will lead worship with those at Twin Pines. This vital ministry connects us with those in our community. Please come out and join our neighbors in worship.

**YOUTH GROUP Corn hole tournament**, nine in the air, badminton, snacks, and smores! Join us on Monday evening at the Simonds house (Mark & Amy Simonds, 22 Fieldstone Drive, Cochranville, PA 19330) for fun and fellowship. Please contact Eileen Bushenell with questions: 610-998-0916.

**OPEN MARKET SEPTEMBER 23RD:** To help make our Open Market a success, we are in need of a few more food trucks and your help in spreading the word is appreciated! We are looking forward to BBQ, tacos, ice cream from the Boy Scouts, and popcorn from our church. Also, if you or someone you know would like to rent a space this year, they are 20'x20' for \$20! Pop-up tents for our vendors are also needed. Please contact Darlene Murphy at [d123murphy@aol.com](mailto:d123murphy@aol.com). Mark your calendars to join us for good food and great artisans!

**PRAYER WARRIORS:** If you would like to join our prayer chain, please see Pastor Shirley for more information.

**PRAYER CHAIN NOTICE:** It is our privilege to be in prayer. If you would like your prayer request to be on the prayer chain, please share your prayer requests with the church office, Pastor Monica, Pastor Shirley, and on the weekends to Sara Ann Ramberger. We will send it out to the prayer chain. This allows us to make sure we have the most current list of pray-ers joining us in prayer. Please do not use a previous email to send it out yourself. Thank you for helping us as we pray together for our joys and concerns.

**PRAYER ROOM:** The Prayer Room is available after each service on Sunday to pray with a member of the Prayer Ministry Team or offer your own prayer for those in need.

**PRAYER BEAD GARDEN GROUNDBREAKING:** We are very happy to announce that the groundbreaking for the Prayer Bead Garden will be after worship on **Sunday, August 20th**. Please plan to join us in worship as we begin inside and process outside to prepare to create a place of prayer for generations to come.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT FUN through August 23.** It is a casual evening for people to come for food, short devotion, fun, and fellowship. We provide the beverages and the hot dogs. Folks are invited to bring sides, desserts, and other items as they are able. Games are available for children and adults. Rain or Shine! Join us one week or every week!

**ATTENTION ACOLYTES:** Please let **Carol Whelan** know by August 10th if your child is still interested in being an acolyte for the coming year or if they would like to be removed from the rotation. Likewise, if you think your child would be interested in being added to the acolyte rotation, please contact Carol at [ciwhelan1@verizon.net](mailto:ciwhelan1@verizon.net) Thanks!

## THIS WEEK: August 6 through August 13, 2017

~~ Hours for the Church Office: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. ~~

*Pastor Monica will be on vacation starting August 6th, after worship, through August 13th.  
Please contact Pastor Shirley for any pastoral care needs.*

### Sunday: NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*On the first Sunday of each month, please donate to the shopping cart in the lobby to replenish the supplies in our Emergency Food Pantry. A current shopping list of supplies most needed are available on the cart.*

|                   |                               |                                                          |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
|                   | 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.           | PraiseWorks Rehearsal                                    |
|                   | 9:30 a.m.                     | Blended Summer Worship                                   |
|                   | 2:00 p.m.                     | Twin Pines Worship-Pastor Jim preaching                  |
| <b>Monday:</b>    | 9:30: a.m.-11:30 a.m.         | Knit Wits (#1)                                           |
|                   | 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.           | SOS Ladies (#5)                                          |
| <b>Tuesday:</b>   | 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.           | 4-H Robotics Club ( #8, 10)                              |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.           | Yoga (Sanctuary)                                         |
| <b>Wednesday:</b> | All day                       | AG Seniors Parking Lot Use for Trip (Parking lot)        |
|                   | 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.           | Luther House Bible Study (Bldg. 1)                       |
|                   | <b>6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.</b>    | <b>Wednesday Food &amp; Fun Night (Outside, Kitchen)</b> |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.           | Venture Crew Committee Meeting (#8, 10)                  |
| <b>Thursday:</b>  | 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.         | Music Practice (#6)                                      |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.           | Boy Scout Troop #12 (#8, 10, 9, 11, 12, 13)              |
| <b>Friday:</b>    | No scheduled activities.      |                                                          |
| <b>Saturday:</b>  | <b>9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</b> | <b>JULIET Breakfast– Sunrise Café, Kennett Square</b>    |
|                   | 9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.          | Pastor Shirley Rehearsal (Sanc.)                         |
|                   | 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.         | Daily Reflections Group (#8 & 10)                        |
| <b>Sunday:</b>    |                               | <b>TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>                      |
|                   |                               | <b>NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY</b>                            |
|                   | 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.           | PraiseWorks Rehearsal                                    |
|                   | 9:30 a.m.                     | Blended Summer Worship-Pastor Shirley preaching          |



The altar flowers are given today are in celebration  
Jeannie Sullivan's birthday, by her loving husband, Fred.



### God's Faithfulness ~

### Your Stewardship

**Report July 30, 2017**

**General Offering: \$ 4,541.00**

**Building Maintenance Fund: \$ 135.00**

**Blended Worship Attendance: 151**

**Emergency Groceries YTD: 84 bags**

**Anniversary Giving YTD: \$6,572.95**

**Prayer Bead Garden Donations: \$320.00**

**Contributions to date: \$3,526.00**

**Goal-\$10,000**

*It is your tithes, offerings,  
and gifts that impact  
and change lives for Christ!*

## Moment of Impact

*Camping and Retreat Ministries*

*As we enter August, we give thanks to God that we support our 4 United Methodist camps in our conference. These are places where people of all ages meet Jesus in activities, cultivate awe and reverence for God's world, and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.*

# PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

**Would you like to add someone to the Prayer Chain?** Weekdays, please contact **Donna Fackler at the church office: office@westgroveumc.org or 610-869-9334.** After office hours and on weekends, please contact **Sara Ann Ramberger at sar57ver@verizon.net or 610-869-3863.** All prayer requests will remain in the bulletin for **four Sundays.** If you would like to have the prayer concern extended, **please update your request with Donna.** Thank you.

**Community Prayer Focus August: Sunday School Program**  
**Mission Prayer Focus in August: Twin Pines**

Cory Beattie (Shaub)  
 Fran Bryan  
 Anne Cantrell (Mullen)  
 Joann Coates  
 Lane Cornette (Rubincan)  
 Dee Crawford  
 Nina Dickinson (B. Ranieri)  
 Family of Doreen Disk  
 Fred Disk (Stryjewski)  
 Tom Fagan  
 Laura Featherston  
 Bill Fili, Jr. (Bratton)  
 Gary Fratz (Hendrickson)  
 Jerry Frost (Frost)  
 Jim Hunt (Kr. Boyd)  
 Peg Kent  
 Susan Lacy (Mullen)  
 Russell Ludwick (Ramberger)  
 Family of Maryann Lynch  
 (Bowers)



Family of Sarah Rose  
 Massaferi (Bushnell)  
 Rosemary MacCoun  
 Dave McClain  
 Lynn Morgan (McClain)  
 Peggy Mowrer  
 Tim Mullen  
 Lola Nadolny (Hruz)  
 Nancy Pearo (Heist)  
 Rick Renzulli (McGinley)  
 Family of Kristina Roberts  
 (Phillips)  
 Roann Schneider  
 Rick Spencer (K. Smith)  
 Stephen Spitko (Howard)  
 Lorrie Steele  
 Maureen Stickel (Fackler)  
 Eric Stover (Kreutzfeldt)  
 Danny Tiderman (Hughes)  
 Zach Trexler (Lytle)  
 Ron and Marliiss Wilson



Daniel Engberg—Iraq (Hruz)  
 Tom Fagan - USA (Whelan)  
 Brian Kubo - Maryland (Mullen)  
 LTC Eric Maxwell,  
 Chesapeake, VA  
 (The Rambergers)  
 Jimmy Strawhecker - NJ  
 (Lynne Strawhecker)  
 Chris Weizman - Jordan (Miller)  
 Ed Tolmie

## **SERVANTS IN MINISTRY ON SUNDAY MORNING**

**This Sunday, August 6th**  
**Ushers—9:30** The Bushnells  
**Greeters—9:30** The Boyds  
**Acolyte—9:30** Matthew Rinehimer  
**Nursery—9:30** Margaret Rubincan  
**C. Worship—9:30** Amy Castaldi  
**Lay Reader—9:30** Mike Chalmers  
**Moment All Ages** Karen Hruz  
**Prayer Room** Pam Howard  
**Hospitality—9:30** Rain Catoia  
**Counters** Bowers/Beauchamp  
**Soundbooth** Keith Schneider & various

**Next Sunday, August 13th**  
 The Catoias  
 The Haleys  
 Ian Ditzel  
 Ken Rinehimer  
 OPEN  
 Sue Curtis  
 Pastor Shirley  
 Susan Paisley  
 The Sturkes  
 The Rambergers  
 Keith Schneider & various

## Meditations For Your Week

### **Sunday, August 6~ Saturday, August 12**

**Sunday:** *“The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, ‘Raise your eyes now, and look from the place where you are, northwards and southwards and eastwards and westwards; for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth; so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.”* Genesis 13: 14-16. God’s practice is to use the world around us to point to God’s way, character, and promises. Dust as offspring! Where is God using the world you see to show your God’s promises?

**Monday:** *“But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’”* Genesis 15:2. God’s promises are often steps ahead of our understanding and can seem downright crazy. What does it mean for you to trust where you cannot see how the promise will come to be?

**Tuesday:** *“The Lord brought Abram outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then God said to Abram, ‘So shall your descendants be.’”* Genesis 15:5. Give thanks to God for awe of stars and God’s promises.

**Wednesday:** *“And Abram believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.”* Genesis 15:6. When you can’t see how God’s promises will be kept, prayerfully believe in God’s steadfastness.

**Thursday:** *“As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.”* Genesis 15:12. There are times when deep and terrifying darkness descends upon us. May the God of promises be known to you in the dark.

**Friday:** *“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”* Luke 12: 32. God’s promises and goodness are ultimately for your welfare. Give thanks to God and rest in delight of God’s unfailing goodness.

**Saturday:** *“Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* Luke 12: 33-34. As we rest on God’s promises, our actions are the ways in which others see God. Let your actions reflect God’s compassion and heart for all people.